REDRUTH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Medical Officer's Report for 1920.

Population 10737. Area of Acres 4035.

During the year 1920 the births of 229 children (118 males and 111 females) and the deaths of 153 ~~children~~ persons (71 males and 81 females) were registered.

The Birth rate is therefore 22.1 and the death rate 14.1.

For comparison I again append a list of the birth and death rates for the past ten years.

Birth rate for past ten years.		Death rate for past ten years.	
1911 ..	22.7	1911 ..	20.6
1912 ..	22.6	1912 ..	17.4
1913 ..	23.5	1913 ..	15.9
1914 ..	21.8	1914 ..	17.1
1915 ..	20.3	1915 ..	17.0
1916 ..	20.3	1916 ..	18.8
1917 ..	18.4	1917 ..	18.3
1918 ..	16.8	1918 ..	18.1
1919 ..	17.6	1919 ..	17.3
1920 ..	22.1	1920 ..	14.1

The deaths.

Rheumatic Fever	1.	Phthisis	16.	Heart Disease	13.
Bronchitis	8.	Cancer	23.	Cirrhosis of Liver	0.
Pneumonia	2.	Pleurisy	0.	Apoplexy	8.
Suicide	0.	Premature Births	2.	Meningitis	2.
Convulsions	3.	Bright's Disease	7.	Diabetes	1.
Parturition	0.	Ear Disease	0.		

Zymotic.

Typhoid Fever	0.	Continued Fever	0.	Diptheria & Croup	0.
Whooping Cough	3.	Scarlet Fever	0.	Influenza	0.

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Measles 0. Erysipelas 0. Polio Myelitis 0.

Diarrhrea 1. Cerebro Spinal Meningitis 0.

Death rate under one year old per thousand births 65.

Zymotic death rate per thousand population .3.

Fever.

No case of Typhoid Fever - No case of Continued Fever notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

Six cases were notified - No death - all the cases were mild in Character - occurred at different parts of the district and no two cases in one house - all the cases occurred in the early and later months of the year.

The infected rooms and bedding were disinfected in every case, and all the children from the infected houses excluded from School during the period of infection.

Influenza.

No death - In last year's report I said there was comparatively little Influenza during 1919, but it was expected that very likely we should be visited with a severe epidemic of Influenza in 1920 and as matter of precaution I had distributed to every house in the Urban District a Pamphlet giving precautions how to try and avoid catching it, and some hints as to treatment for those who did become infected and offering the "Influenza Vaccine" as supplied by the Ministry of Health - however very few availed themselves of the vaccine as pr-eventive, but fortunately the epidemic did not arrive and through 1920 extremely few Influenza cases occurred.

Measles.

Three cases notified - No death - The first two cases occurred in January and in each instance it developed in boys coming home for their holidays from Schools where some cases of Measles had occurred, the third case was in December in a child who had recently returned home from a visit.

Measles 0. Whooping 0. Mild Hysteria 0.

Diarrhoea 1. Cerebro Spinal Meningitis 0.

Death rate under one year old per thousand living 65.

Mortality death rate per thousand population 4.

Fever.

No case of Typhoid fever - No case of continued fever notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

Six cases were notified - No death - all the cases were mild in character - occurred at different parts of the Kingston district and no two cases in one house - all the cases occurred in the early and later months of the year.

The infected rooms and bedding were disinfected in every case, and all the children from the infected houses excluded from School during the period of infection.

Influenza.

No death - In last year's report I said there was comparatively little Influenza during 1919, but it was expected that very likely we should be visited with a severe epidemic of Influenza in 1920 and as matter of precaution I had distributed to every house in the Union District a Respirator giving precautions how to try and avoid catching it, and none plans no to treatment for those who did become infected and effected the "Influenza vaccine" as supplied by the Ministry of Health - however very few availed themselves of the vaccine as it was optional, but fortunately the epidemic did not arrive and through 1919 extremely few Influenza cases occurred.

Measles.

Three cases notified - No death - The first two cases occurred in January and in each instance it developed in boys coming home for their holidays from Bishops Lenox Home cases of Measles had occurred, the third case was in December in a child who had recently returned home from a visit.

Cancer.

Deaths from Cancer during the last ten years.

1911	..	8	1916	..	12.
1912.	..	6.	1917	..	16.
1913	..	8.	1918	..	11.
1914	..	8.	1919	..	20.
1915	..	10.	1920	..	23.

Eighteen of the deaths female - five male - last year's fourteen deaths from Cancer in female - six male - The male cases in 1920 were situated in the Stomach and Rectum - The female in Breast 5. Uterus 2. Intestines 4. Gallbladder & Liver 4. Lungs 1.Thyroid 1. Stomach 1.

Thus since 1914 there has been each year a steady increase in the number of deaths from Cancer.

A part anyhow of this increase is probably apparent only being accounted for by better facilities for diagnosing Cancer than in former years,but even allowing for this the above figures would indicate that Cancer is getting somewhat more prevalent than formerly

In this series the youngest case was Cancer of the Stomach in a women 29 years of age and the oldest was Cancer of the Stomach in a man 78 years of age.

Phthisis.

Deaths from Phthisis and "South African Phthisis" for the last 10 years.

Total number of deaths from Phthisis -			"South African Phthisis".
1911	..	18.	3.
1912	..	23.	5.
1913	..	24.	6.
1914	..	37.	7.
1915	..	19.	4.
1916	..	31.	3.

Cancer.

Deaths from cancer during the last ten years.

1911	..	8	1918	..	18.
1912.	..	6.	1919	..	16.
1913	..	8.	1920	..	11.
1914	..	8.	1921	..	30.
1915	..	10.	1922	..	22.

Eighteen of the deaths female - five male - last year's fourteen deaths from cancer in female - six male - The male cases in 1922 were situated in the stomach and rectum - The female in breast 8. Uterus 2. Intestines 4. Gallbladder & liver 4. Lungs 1. Thyroid 1. Stomach 1.

Time since 1914 there has been each year a steady increase in the number of deaths from cancer.

A part myview of this increase is probably apparent only being accounted for by better facilities for diagnosing cancer than in former years, but even allowing for this the above figures would indicate that cancer is getting somewhat more prevalent than formerly. In this district the youngest case was cancer of the stomach in a woman 29 years of age and the oldest was cancer of the stomach in a man 78 years of age.

Phthisis.

Deaths from Phthisis and "South African Phthisis" for the last 10 years.

Total number of deaths from Phthisis - "South African Phthisis".

1911	..	10.	3.
1912	..	20.	6.
1913	..	24.	6.
1914	..	27.	7.
1915	..	18.	4.
1916	..	21.	3.

1917	..	33	..	4
1918	..	25.	..	3.
1919	..	15.	..	4.
1920	..	15.	..	3.

Six of the 15 deaths are females - nine males - Two of the deaths are under 20 years the remainder above 30,and no less than eleven out of the 15,are over 40 and four at no less than 60.

We are apt to consider that Tubercular troubles are generally confined to the young,but the above report and experience show that such is not the case,quite old people get Tubercle of the lungs and all other regions of the body.

That Tubercular troubles are due to the presence of the Tubercular germ is a fact known to everyone,but judging from the Public behaviour I do not consider that people in general realise that Pulmonary Tuberculosis at any rate is very infectious and that no unnecessary exposure should be allowed - one of the most difficult factors to deal with an attempting to stamp out this dreadful disease.

Heart Disease.

Nine deaths - a low number - only two deaths under 35 years of age all the remainder over 50 when death was really due to degeneration of heart muscle,and not due to active rheumatic valvular disease.

Bronchitis.

Twelve deaths - Two under one year and no less that six over 70 years of age - showing that Bronchitis is a serious fatal disease at the extreme of life,in the very young and the very old.

Apoplexy.

Eight deaths - last year there were seven deaths,the largest number for many years,and this time there are eight - last year they all occurred in women and I reported it as being a very unusual record,because being due to the blood vessels of the brain becoming worn out and brittle and then rupture,producing

1917	..	39	..	4
1918	..	25.	..	3.
1919	..	16.	..	4.
1920	..	16.	..	3.

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the disease -estate of blood vessels and supposed to be much more common in men than in women.

This year again all the deaths are in women - Five were over 75 years of age, a true senile degeneration of blood vessels having taken place.

Bright's Disease.

Six deaths - Five women - four over 60 and one quite young .

Diabetes.

One death - age 54 female - very favourable record.

Diarrhoea.

One death - a baby nine months old in the month of February once more a certain proof that we had not a very high temperature during the summer - the germ that causes fatal diarrhoea can only thrive and live when the thermometer registers a high degree.

Whooping Cough.

Two deaths one aged 1 month in the month of July and the 2nd Was a girl aged 6 years in August - only comparatively few cases in district - both deaths occurred in the hottest months of the year and both due to Broncho - Pneumonia.

Appendicitis.

Two deaths - one aged 40 female - the other aged 26 male.

Diptheria.

Thirteen notificat ions - no death - this is the third year without having any death from Diptheria - The type of case is still severe and well marked,but the free use of Antitoxin administered early produces the desired result,the Public are now well acquainted with these facts and so send early in all throat cases to be on the safe side - The Sanitary Inspector visit s every case,has any surrounding sanitary defects remedied,advises strict precaut-ion as regards isolation of the patient,care as to preventing infection of food,spoons,cups etc and finally sees to the disinfection of the house after the

the disease -state of blood vessels and supposed to be much more common in men than in women.

This year again all the deaths are in women - five were over 45 years of age. a true senile degeneration of blood vessels having taken place.

Bright's Disease.

six deaths - five women - four over 60 and one quite young.

Diabetes.

One death - age 54 female - very favourable record.

Pneumonia.

One death - a lady nine months old in the month of January - one more a certain proof that we had not a very high temperature during the winter - the fact that proves fatal diarrhoea can only thrive and live when the thermometer registers a high degree.

Whooping Cough.

Two deaths one aged 1 month in the month of July and the 2nd was a girl aged 6 years in August - only comparatively few cases in district - both deaths occurred in the hottest months of the year and both due to Bronchio - Pneumonia.

Appendicitis.

Two deaths - one aged 40 female - the other aged 38 male.

Diphteria.

Thirteen notified here - no death - this is the third year without having any death from Diphteria - the type of case is still severe and well marked,but the free use of Antitoxin administered early produces the desired result,the family are now well acquainted with these facts and so send early in all throat cases to be on the safe side - The sanitary Inspector visit a every case,has any extraordinary sanitary defects remedied,advises strict precaution as regards isolation of the patient,care as to preventing infection of food,spoons,cups etc and family goes to the disinfection of the house after the

patient has recovered. No two cases occurred in one house and this report shows a less number of Diptheria cases in our District than for some years.

Membranous Croup.

No case.

Water Supply.

Supply constant and good quality - one large reservoir - no complaints.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewage empties itself into tanks and then on the Sewage Farm at Talgas - intermittent system of treatment carried out as far as quantity of land will allow - no complaint during the year reached me as to any nuisance from Sewage Farm.

Schemes to carry sewage to the sea still under consideration.

Milk Supply.

Quality generally good - no complaints and no disease traced to contaminated Milk -

Maternity and Child Welfare.

One fully qualified Midwife - periodically inspected by County Inspector of Midwifes.

A County Nurse also resides at Redruth whose duty is to periodically visit all children under five years of age, and to generally see that they are well fed and cared for - and that a Doctor's help is obtained when considered necessary -

A Child Welfare Centre for Redruth has not yet been started but arrangements are under consideration.

Isolation Hospital.

Since my last report our Isolation Hospital has been opened - it is very favourably situated and has been suit-ably furnished, and I believe will well serve our purpose - A Caretaker - man and wife - reside there the whole time and I have arranged that a trained Nurse accompanies cases on admission and remains at the Hospital as long

as any serious nursing is required.
There is a furnished bedroom at the Hospital always ready to receive a trained Nurse at short notice.

Bakehouses.

There are five in the District all registered, regularly inspected, well kept and conforming to Bye-laws.

Common Lodging house.

There has been one Lodging house at East Ind for the last 40 years but since my last report, this has been ~~xxxxxx~~ converted into a private dwellinghouse, and now there is not any Common Lodging house in the Urban District.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

All Dairies registered - Dairies as a rule were found quite satisfactory as regards sanitary conditions - very clean, well ventilated and only occasionally used as Storehouses for odd household articles.
Cowsheds and Farmhouses for the most part very unsatisfactory Construction bad, Ventilation and light most inadequate - Cows never properly groomed, nor udders nor teats ~~xxxx~~ washed before Milking - Large proportion of Milk comes into Urban District daily from farms in the Rural District.
No action taken as to Tuberculosis Milk.

Slaughter Houses.

Fourteen - Thirteen registered - One licensed - They are kept in good order, clean and comply with Bye-laws. The Inspection of Meat is done by t he Medical Officer and the Inspector of Nuisances Visits are not paid during the time of slaughtering - I go to the Meat Market and especially inspect if I have reason to think I shall find Meat unfit for food.
No complaints reached me during the year.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades carried on in the District and there has not been any death nor disease traceable to lead, arsenic or phosphorus

poisoning.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

No prosecution under the sale of Food and Drugs Act during the year.

Public Schools.

Unsatisfactory Sanitary arrangements on Boy's side Trewirgie School - complained of last year has been rectified.
East End Infants School closed from July 13th to August 2nd 1920 on account of Whooping Cough.
Trewirgie Infants School closed July 19th to September 6th on account of Whooping Cough.
Tralelgh Infants closed November 1st to November 22nd - Impetigo and Whooping Cough -

Redruth Station.

I have inspected the Sanitary arrangements and find them in good order.

Sanitation.

Number of houses	3613
No new houses.	
Number of fresh and waste water closets ..	1365
No new Closets.	
Number of privies with fixed receptacles ..	1459
No new privies.	
Houses supplied with water	2336

Number of conversions from privies to water closets during the years

1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
17	16	14	10	13	4

During 1920 Private closets built	9.
Privies - Ashpits new	6.
Privies converted to water closets	4.
Closets supplied with water	4.
New houses certified	0.
Houses connected with sewer	5.

Earth Closets 0.

House drains connected with cesspool 0.

House accomodation fair - some few cases of overcrowding and a certain number of back to back houses.

King Street. Drain cleared of water closets - flushing cisterns repaired and doors mended - Drain repaired - new stoneware gully connected to drain and yard paved.

Plain-an-gwarry. New door to water closet.

Sparnon Terrace. Drain to water closet cleared and roof repaired.

Rose Row. Privy repaired - water closet connected to main sewer.

Shoot Row. Water Closets repaired - three new stoneware gullies, and same connected to drain - water closet unstopped and accumulation of ashed removed.

Back Lane East. Drain cleared and put in proper condition.

Back Lane West. Water Closets and privies repaired and general sanitation attended to.

Lower Bellevue. 3 Privies converted to Water closets and connected to main sewer - new stoneware gullies connected to main ~~sewer~~ drain Launders of houses put in good condition.

Basset Street. Privies repaired.

Agar Crescent. Drain re~~paired~~laied, with sound stoneware pipes, stoneware gully provided in place of existing D trap and same connected to Main Sewer.

Treruffe Hill. Dirty premises cleaned.

Green Lane. Water Closet repaired and cleaned.

Acts adopted in the District.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

The Public Health Acts amendment Act 1890 (Part 111)

The private Street Works Act 1892.

The Public Libraries Act 1892.

New Byelaws passed in 1900 and 1915 which relate to New Street and Buildings, Slaughter Houses, Cleansing of Footways, Removal of Refuse, Common Lodging Houses, Dairies and Cowsheds.

Earth closets

6.

House drains connected with cesspool

House accommodation fair - some few cases of overcrowding and a certain number of back to back houses.

King Street. Drain cleared of water closets - flushing cisterns repaired and doors mended - Drain repaired - new stoneware gully connected to drain and yard paved.

Plain-un-gwarry. New door to water closet.

Sperrom Terrace. Drain to water closet cleared and roof repaired.

Rose Row. Privy repaired - water closet connected to main sewer.

School Row. Water closets repaired - three new stoneware gullies, and same connected to drain - water closet unstopped and accumulation of ashes removed.

Back Lane East. Drain cleared and put in proper condition.

Moor Lane West. Water closets and privies repaired and general sanitation attended to.

Lower Bellevue. 3 privies converted to water closets and connected to main sewer - new stoneware gullies connected to main sewer drain

Lumbers of houses put in good condition.

Bracket Street. Privies repaired.

Adar Crescent. Drain repaired, with round stoneware pipes, stoneware gully provided in place of existing D trap and sewe connected to main sewer.

Tremville Hall. Dirty premises cleaned.

Green Lane. Water closet repaired and cleaned.

Acts enforced in the District.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (Part III)

The private Street Works Act 1892.

The Public Elections Act 1892.

New Bye-laws passed in 1890 and 1893 which relate to New Streets and Buildings, Slaughter Houses, Cleansing of Footways, Removal of Refuse, Common Lodging Houses, Hairies and Cowsheds.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 Parts II.III.IV.V.VI and X section 95.

Factory and Workshops Act 1901.

Factories and Workshops have been inspected - all emergency exits satisfactory - all kept clean and well ventilated - Sanitary conveniences sufficient in numbers and in good condition.
The half yearly lists of Out-Workers are systematically collected
No infectious disease reported during the year.

FRANK HIGGENS

M.D. B.S. (Lond) D.P.H(Eng) M.R.C.S. L.S.A.

Medical Officer of Health.

Redruth June 1921

Redruth Urban District
Council.

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Medical Officer's Report
for 1920.